



# **MINUTES**

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO**

### **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Regular Meetings: The First, Second,  
And Third Tuesday of each month

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

County Courthouse  
Bridgeport, California 93517

**December 19, 2006**

**9:01 a.m. Call meeting to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

No one spoke.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES**

No one spoke.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Reid-

- Fisheries Meeting: I've been to so many meetings. People were very upset that the process did not include the county and ranchers. What data was used to pick these spots? What criteria did they use? They were very upset about Hot Creek. Kevin Johnson, Chair, said the fish get pretty beat up in the winter time. He thinks there's a real public safety. They could lose some people. He was authorized to write a letter to the Board not to endorse so much the locations but to speak to the process.

Farnetti-

- CSAC Conference on 11/28-12/1- good conference: Rural County Caucus, Rebuilding Infrastructure, etc. 12/5 Department Head meeting: Some discussion on new cash handling policy (presented after the first of the year). SB 420 and how the county would interact with that. Preparing county cars for winter driving- list of safety equipment each car should have. 12/5 the entire Board attended a dinner for Senator Cox which was a nice evening. 12/7 attended Collaborative Planning Meeting- Paiute Tribe was there and requested that all agencies working on construction sites that they be notified, CalTrans talked about bond that was passed (projects put on hold will be moving forward). Black Rock Project is back on the Board. There was another one... Olancha will be moving forward. Mammoth Housing Update to the Board. Progress on the Watershed Assessment. Attended the Mt. Morrison meeting and went down to the cemetery and took measurements of the plots.

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### Hazard-

- Team Engineering attended Tri-Valley Ground Water Meeting- very productive meeting. There are ongoing concerns about ongoing water, depth, and potential for development out there. A comprehensive report addressed many issues. There is no project sitting out there. It held a lot more credence with the folks out there. The report was given to the group to review and will come back again. There's a real desire to get a Water Management Branch for the Tri-Valley Area. This has been the first formal group and a real positive approach. 12/15 COG and Eastern Sierra Transit Meeting. 12/18 met with CalTrans down in Bishop to discuss what CalTrans to discuss a grant program from CalTrans that's taking future community development and how to develop future highways. It takes in water, community facilities, walk able communities, etc. They are really excited to be able to come to a community that is not built up and can be in on this earlier to design something that really works well. Notice, two days ago, that the Benton Paiute Tribe authorized a check for \$6,000 for a PowerPoint projector and screen for the community center. Farnetti: We need to send a thank you letter too. Our IT staff has been working with Joe to decide on which equipment would be appropriate.

### Hunt-

- Adjourned meeting memo received from Christy Robles. Please agendize this for January. Rudolph: I have had Allen Berrey do research on this. Limitations of issues on regular meetings vs. special meetings vs. adjourned meetings. I plan on bringing something like that in January. Attended the CSAC meeting and got my ethics training out of the way. I sat with Supervisors of Orange County and had lunch with them and shared the value of First 5. I talked with Peter Costernbaum. Bill Stickland gave a good lunch talk- if you give people the tool they need and respect, they'll perform the job..... 12/4 Great Basin Meeting- revising two rules. Settling with the City of Los Angeles and issues on air pollution as well. Update on Mammoth Lakes monitoring station. 12/6 Lower Owens River- 500 people and the major of L.A. was there. They pushed the button, the water flowed, the gate stopped, and the water started again. They got that going. First 5 Mono County Commission Meeting- CARES update, child care issues. 12/11 Local Transportation Commission Meeting- We have bus transportation now. 12/12 Mammoth Lakes Housing Inc Board Meeting- The Village is up and functioning. They couldn't plug in 48 gas fire water heaters. They changed the whole thing out to electric. 48 rental units now. Tavern Road is going to be a major development. There will be over 9,000 feet of commercial space. ESCOG: Straight-forward on most of this stuff. Transit Authority has a six month transition time. 54 million dollars for projects from the last election. Bishop has been designated as a subsite/ administrative center. Tomorrow going to the Bishop airport- Technical Assistance Program and help to establish some of the requirements needed to get this underway.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) **CAO Report and Tracking Report re Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)**  
**ACTION:** Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities. Review and potentially revise Tracking Report of Board assignments.

We're working with Child Support Services regarding changes to a contract. We're continuing to work with DSA negotiations. Cemetery Project: We'll be concluding that process and coming back for recommendations. Eastern Sierra Transit Authority- decision made in January to transfer administrative authority, now split with various managers. I would like to have a conversation about a COG for Mono County to talk about capitol projects that don't always integrate well. ESCOG: Meeting on Friday. Church parcel correspondence (June-July 07 closure deadline on that). CDBG grants submitted. Meeting with Interwest- moving forward on rodeo grounds. Reid: I rec'd an inquiry from Lee Vining. I spoke to Kelly about it. That cemetery has been kind-of shut down for various reasons (mapping). The maps are old; the plots given out are close to one another, you're going to cave in some previous vaults, etc. There are people who have plots there and another list of people who want plots until we have more appropriate mapping. But in the meantime, we have people passing away. There are no fee charges in Lee Vining. Wilbrecht: Fees charged only in Morrison. Reid: People pass away and if they get cremated but if they don't, what do they do? I do know that one person has 24 plots which seems unusual. We're going to have to come up with a policy on our cemeteries. Rudolph: Public Works is working on policies to try and address some of those things. I think something should be coming to you as a policy document to deal with some of these issues. Farnetti: Morrison is hopefully to standardize. At least the plot size, heights, limitations, etc. We're hoping to standardize. Rudolph: I would suggest talking to Kelly. Reid: I know they're working on things. Farnetti: If people don't pay for plots, how can people acquire 24 plots? Hazard: There are some uniqueness's down there and from there we'll have a basic structure for future cemeteries. Reid: For the people who are losing loved ones, the sooner the better.

## CLOSED SESSIONS

*Entered Closed Session @ 9:03 a.m. thru 10:45 a.m.*

*Recess taken from 10:46 a.m. thru 10:54 a.m.*

*No report from Closed Session*

- 2) **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS.** Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Robert Garret, and Brian Muir. Unrepresented Employees: Deputy Director of Finance-Auditor/Controller, Deputy Director of Finance- Treasurer-Tax Collector, & Financial Management Assistant.
- 3) **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS.** Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Robert Garret, Brian Muir, Greg Busey, and Richard C. Scholl. Employee Organization: Mono County Sheriff's Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association).

- 4) **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS.** Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Robert Garret, and Brian Muir. Employee Organization: International Union of Operating Engineers – Stationary Local No. 39 (aka Mono County Public Employees).
- 5) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
M06-216 **Regular Meeting of December 12, 2006**  
(Hazard/Reid 4-0; Absent Bauer)

## CONSENT AGENDA

### SHERIFF-CORONER

- 6) Sheriff's Department Renewal of Contract with the County of Orange  
M06-217 **ACTION:** (1)The Board of Supervisors to authorize the Sheriff's Department to participate and renew the contract with the County of Orange using the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department for autopsy services. This contract would take effect February 1, 2007 and continue for five (5) years. (2) The Board of Supervisors to sign the contract with the County of Orange. (3) The Board of Supervisors to authorize Mono County Counsel to sign the contract with the County of Orange. (4) The Board of Supervisors to authorizes Sheriff-Coroner to sign the contract with the County of Orange. *Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$6,000 per year.*  
(Hunt/Hazard 4-0; Absent Bauer)

Reid: I just wanted to say thank you to administration and to the Board for taking the fiscal impact into consideration. Hazard: This is one of the benefits of being a small county.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### PUBLIC WORKS

- 7a) Bid Opening, Vehicle Purchase for the Environmental Health Dept. (Evan Nikirk)  
M06-218 **ACTION:** (1) Open, read aloud, and record sealed bids submitted in response to Public Works' Invitation to bid to furnish one 2007 Subaru Forester 2.5x vehicle for the Environmental Health Department. (2) Refer bids to the Public Works Director for review and recommendation. *Fiscal impact will be based on bids received.*  
(Reid/Hunt 4-0; Absent Bauer)

Environmental Health needs a vehicle which was authorized for go out to bid in November to 40 Subaru dealers and received 6 bids. Reid: Why 90 days for delivery? Nikirk: Historically we have allotted them 90 days to respond because of purchasing multiple vehicles.

Livermore Subaru: 21,450.23 delivery 250.00

Gold Rush Subaru: They submitted their bid and a reduction- 22,243.08 and delivery included then deducting 352.23 for shop manuals.

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Timmons Subaru: 21,235.42 with delivery of 100.00

Subaru of San Bernardino 20,817.23 and delivery is included

Autowest: \$21,609.81 and delivery of \$250.00- Rec'd 12/5 (submitted possibly with shop manuals)

Michael Hohl Subaru: 20,724 with free delivery

- 7b)** Franchise Hauler Access Agreement at the Benton Crossing Landfill (**Evan Nikirk**)  
**M06-219** **ACTION:** Authorize the Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) to execute and administer agreements with D&S Waste Removal and Mammoth Disposal setting forth conditions under which access to the Benton Crossing Landfill will be authorized on site holidays. **No fiscal impact.**  
**(Hazard/Hunt 4-0; Absent Bauer)**

Evan Nikirk addressed the Board. This is long overdue. If they shut down for a day it takes a week to make up. We've put a holiday lock so we can give them the keys to access the site. Tarps at the top deck, cover the trash, and put tires on it to hold it down. It formalizes and puts the entire burden on the haulers and relieves the county of those potential liabilities. Insurance is tied to the franchise agreement. Farnetti: Do they have access to the scales? Nikirk: We are required to report all waste delivery to four different agencies. The week preceding the holiday, we tally their loads depending on what type of vehicle it is. We rely on their honor on what they delivered, where they came from, and what type of vehicle it was in. The fees are based on that. Farnetti: How many average loads do they bring in over the holiday? Nikirk: Christmas and Presidents Day are the largest days. It varies. I ask them to bring commercial and residential waste. Farnetti: You've had no major issues or concerns over the time we've been doing this? Nikirk: Initially it was a learning process.

**Entered Closed Session @ 11:09 a.m. thru 11:36 a.m.**  
**No report.**

## ***Public Hearing***

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- 8) Tract Map 34-26, June Lake Highlands- Phase 2 Subdivision **(Evan Nikirk)**  
**R06-124** **ACTION:** (1) Approve and authorize the Chair's signature on a **Resolution (R06-124)** of the Mono County Board of Supervisors amending the June Lake Highlands Tract No. 34-24 Zone of Benefit within the countywide County Service Area, which provides for Street and Drainage Maintenance and Snow Removal, to incorporate those parcels within tract no. 34-26 into said zone of benefit and allocating program costs to all parcels within phase 1 and phase 2 of the June Lake Highlands subdivision." (2) Authorize the Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) to execute and administer a subdivision improvement agreement between the County of Mono and June Lake Highlands, LLC, for completion of subdivision improvements associated with Tract No. 34-26. Said approval includes authorizing the Public Works Director to release, modify, or reduce improvement security in the manner contained therein; (3) Authorize the Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) to execute and administer a monumentation agreement between the County of Mono and June Lake Highlands, LLC, to ensure installation of property monuments associated with Tract No. 34-26. Said approval includes authorizing the Public Works Director to release, modify, or reduce improvement security in the manner contained therein; (4) Approve the Final Map for Tract No. 34-36, June Lake Highlands- Phase 2 finding that all conditions of approval have been met, and authorize the Board Clerk's signature on said map certifying approval of such. Said approval shall certify the abandonment of any right, title, or interest the County may have in the temporary drainage easement identified in the "abandonment Note" included on said map; (5) Reject on behalf of the public the offers of dedication for street right-of-way purposes those areas designated for Leonard Avenue, as shown on said map. (6) Reject on behalf of the public the offers of dedication for additional street right-of-way purposes those areas designated for Leonard Avenue, as shown on said map. (7) Reject on behalf of the public the offers of dedication for easements designated for snow storage, drainage, utility, slope, and pedestrian access purposes, as shown on said map. (8) Direct the Public Works Director to file for recordation a certified copy of the above Resolution adopted for the amended June Lake Highlands Zone of Benefit, the above subdivision improvement agreement and monumentation agreement, and a Notice of Development Conditions on Property for the project in the office of the County Recorder.  
**(Hunt/Reid 4-0; Absent Bauer)**
- Tape 1; 496**
- M06-220**  
(Items 2-8)

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Evan Nikirk addressed the Board. *(Telephone call received by the Clerk)*. This was approved in early 2005. It's creating 28 lots. The reduced copy of the map was included in your packets. The map conditions are included as Exhibit 2. All the conditions have been satisfied including a contribution to the Sheriff's Department, the June Lake Trails Plan, and the June Lake Housing Fund. The extension of county services (snow removal, pedestrian path) will be amended. The first phase assessment will actually go down. The new lots will be assessed a fee to extend the county services for maintenance and snow removal. The developer voted to support the assessment. A subdivision improvement agreement is included. There is a requirement to construct a pedestrian path in the subdivision. Bonds have been secured. Monumentation agreement is also included and a bond to ensure that it occurs. We're recording the map conditions that run with the land in the future.

1. Offers of dedication- There are easements, public utilities, and the roads. At this time, I ask that you reject all offers.
2. Recordation of the map- Map, CC&R's, etc. will be recorded if the Board approves this item

Hunt: Any major issues? Nikirk: Commissioner Black has questions on the sewer system. If there are future improvements performed, we'll have to apply assessments or fees to the homeowners. Nothing notable other than that. Farnetti: Supervisor Bauer is unable to attend, today, as she is picking up her son. She has no issues and hopes the Board does not delay this until she gets back.

Rudolph: When it comes time for the action. It's almost easier to move then simultaneously. Reid: You mentioned CC&R's. What does the county play in CC&R's? Nikirk: The county requires them. The developer has the right to oppose. As they relate to the specific plan, they have to incorporate the CC&R's. We have the authority to prevent them from changing their CC&R's. On the action item for #4 toward the bottom, with respect to the abandonment, it was a temporary easement. Hazard: I see where we litigated a lot of issues but I don't see any funding directed toward our Paramedic Program. Is this an oversight? Nikirk: I'm not sure of the Sheriff's Office intention of that money. As they come in, we can certainly..... Hazard: Those services should be mitigated out. Nikirk: I know many of the map conditions were based on the Specific Plan possibly done in 1999. Rudolph: There are limits to which you can mitigate.... Nikirk: We can make that a more pressing issue in the future.

Public Hearing opened @ 11:48 a.m. The developers are here to answer any questions. Tony Dublino: What are the specific affordable housing issues placed into effect? Supervisor Bauer wanted maximum density on this parcel. When something has been approved and since these changes have occurred, what is best in this situation? Scott Burns: It was intended to be a multi-family unit. They went for single-family. At one of the hearings, toward the end, there was an adjustment made that allowed for a number of lots to go to duplex residential places. This was to encourage local housing there. We assumed this was going to be local housing. The market has changed. As they come in for building permits, they will be subject to the housing mitigation requirements. There were 8 or 10 lots specified. Developer: That was before the Ordinance to encourage the secondary units on those parcels. Rudolph: Even if there was some desire to impose some new requirement, you legally couldn't do it. Burns: This was really the first project where we got payments into our housing trust fund. Reid: Marshall, if a project comes in under certain standards and during the process the standards change.....*once you put your paperwork in, ok, thank you.*

Public Hearing closed @ 11:54 a.m. Hunt and Hazard made comments on the process that has taken place.

***Lunch recess @ 11:56 a.m. thru 1:08 p.m.***

- 9) Proposed Acquisition of Sturgeon Parcel APN 08-112-01 **(Kelly Garcia)**  
**R06-125 ACTION:** Consummate the proposed purchase of real property commonly known as 56 Court Street, Bridgeport, California, including approving and authorizing County entry into a purchase and sale agreement for said transaction. (2) Approve and authorizes the Chairman's signature on **Resolution (R06-125)** authorizing the County Administrator to sign a certificate of acceptance for a deed conveying certain real property to the county, and to take such other actions as may be necessary to close escrow. (3) Authorize the Auditor-Controller to make payment for the proposed purchase from Account 800, Miscellaneous Capital Improvements, to be reimbursed at a later date. (4) Authorize the Director of Public Works to apply for, execute and administer a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration, for reimbursement of costs associated with the proposed acquisition of the Sturgeon Parcel. **Fiscal impact: \$255,000 (99.75% reimbursable through grants).**  
**(Reid/Hazard 4-0; Absent Bauer)**

Kelly Garcia addressed the Board. I wanted to thank Marshall with his help on the statute requirements. Since the package was prepared, we have a letter from Scott Burns. The acquisition is consistent with the General Plan. We haven't received any comments from the public. Everything is good to go if the Board concurs with the recommendations. The FAA made a verbal commitment as entitlement funds are available as well. Reid: How large a piece of property is that? Garcia: 1/3 of an acre. Reid: The amount supported by the review appraisal. Garcia: The FAA requires a standard appraisal and a set of questions to determine if the original appraisal is accurate. Reid: Who did the original appraisal? Garcia: Cheryl Breton contracted out with someone in Reno. Farnetti: The \$250,000 comes from where? Garcia: Capitol Improvements 800 primarily because there's no negative interest charged on that account. Reid: We're going to pay it up front and then submit the grant application to get the 95% back? Garcia: For the past 5 years, we've rec'd 150,000 entitlement funds. We still have \$300.00 in there labeled for Bryant Field. It's not a competitive grant. Hazard: What is the timeline for reimbursement? Garcia: The FAA doesn't process applications until the end of the year- mid-summer wouldn't surprise me. Hazard: It appears that a residence resides between.... Garcia: That was the previous courthouse site. I believe that someone does stay there in the summer and that property is up for sale. I'm talking to the real estate agent now. The FAA is trying to protect within the airway runway zone. Reid: This took how long? Garcia: We're able to hold on to it before it sold when property was moving around quickly around here.

Public Hearing is now open @ 1:18 p.m. Tony Dublino: Have we been out of compliance? Garcia: They don't site us for that house but they tell us that it's one of their top priorities. They encourage us to make this a top priority? Dublino: Will this change the services of Bryant Field in terms of the land? Garcia: No.

**Public Hearing closed @ 1:19 p.m.**

Departmental Update: Status/update on the courthouse and water situation from Kelly Garcia. They replaced the vents missing in the foundation. The back restrooms are working (from a different source). Construction project: They are working on the roof. The crew will be here until they're done. The elevator glass- got it at the supplier and now trying to coordinate the elevator inspector. Hunt: First of January? Garcia: I'm concerned because of the holiday to get the inspector here. We're expecting it to be a slam-dunk.



## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- 10)** Bid Award, Vehicle Purchase for the Environmental Health Department **(Evan Nikirk)**
- M06-221 ACTION:** (1) Receive verbal report from Public Works regarding the results and recommendation(s) of bids opened earlier in the meeting. (2) Award bid to the Lowest Responsible Bidder (name and not-to-exceed amount to be determined based on Public Works' report) for the purchase of one 2007 Subaru Forester 2.5X vehicle for the Environmental Health department. (3) Authorize the Public Works Director to prepare, process, and execute applicable purchase documents with said dealership on behalf of Mono County. ***Fiscal impact will be based on bids received. (Hunt/Hazard 4-0; Absent Bauer)***

Evan Nikirk addressed the Board. The county received six bids that were opened earlier today. The lowest bidder was Michael Hohl but they did not include their sales tax which is not in compliance with our requests. As a result, I added a 7.25 sales tax which dropped them from the highest to the lowest. Subaru of San Bernardino is the lowest -delivery at no charge for \$20,817.23. Booher: Based on those coupled with salary savings, it's possible that we can pay cash for this without finance rates. Hunt: I would be supportive. Reid: Brian, any thoughts? Muir: There's plenty of health realignment. There's no reason not to just pay for it. Is it agreeable to use salary savings? We'll bring that issue back to the Board.

***Adjourned @ 1:59 p.m.***

## **Adjourn Meeting to Reconvene at the Lee Vining Community Center @ 6:00 p.m.**

**6:00 p.m. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**

- 11) Avalanche Control Zone; Lee Vining (Hwy 395) **(David Wilbrecht, Road Dept., EMS, Sheriff, School District(s), C.H.P., Cal-Trans, Forest Service, and Department of Water and Power representatives)**  
**ACTION:** (1) Discuss possible options with Cal-Trans and the Forest Service as to an avalanche control zone in Lee Vining on Highway 395. (2) Provide direction to staff.

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- 12) Appointment of RPAC Members **(Supervisor Reid)**  
**M06-222 ACTION:** Approve and authorize Mono Basin RPAC appointments of Zane Davis and Greg Reis and the re-appointments of Norm DeChambeau, Yvette Garcia, Chris Lizza, and Dave Marquart serving terms through December 31, 2008.  
**(Reid/Hazard 4-0; Absent Bauer)**

Item 12 - RPAC appointment Kim: The snow blower is going to be a huge asset. Farnetti: Evan brought us a picture. Supervisor Reid would like the board to appoint RPAC members. One late appointment. Bill will contact, tell what happened.

**Lee Vining Meeting** (notes taken by CAO, David Wilbrecht for Christy Robles)

**6:05 p.m. Meeting convened.**

Item 11Avalance Control Zone: Lee Vining (Hwy 395)

Introductions were made. Supervisor Reid reviewed status of the road, Caltrans no longer is going to plow the bypass road when Highway 395 is closed due to an avalanche or avalanche controls. Supervisor Reid asks the group for cooperation. Power point presentation by Tom Hallenbeck from CalTrans. Expert avalanche hazard map presented. Chutes load up and have potential to cross 395 and go to basin near the lake. Mono County general plan maps show same conclusion; showing avalanches going over highway. What to do?: locate hazards, develop partnerships with avalanche experts and try to loosen up and clear the snow to create short term closures, about 45 minutes using hand charges and snow cat with dynamite. This coming summer CalTrans plans to install 10 Gasex systems for avalanche controls for next season. Otherwise it is a two day trek up the road with hand charges.

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Evan Nikirk presentation. Similar to CalTrans with photo with bypass roads. Evan had several discussion points after the visuals. CHP comments: involved in avalanche controls and effects. Concerned about 18 wheelers and two-wheel drive vehicles that cannot use the road. No control of access long term. No authority to enforce laws on the road unless posted with regulatory sign. Understand CalTrans position. No enforcement. Would like to see the bypass road open.

Sheriff comments: Rick Scholl is concerned about public safety if avalanche is active. Problems with prisoner transport when Highway 395 is closed. Need north-south access. Recommends pooling resources to make closure work. Sheriff could declare a disaster for additional resources. Lt. Obenberger: The road can be problem due to narrow access. USFS. Jon Regelbrugge' introduced as new District Ranger for Inyo National Forest.

Mike Schlafmann, Assistant District Ranger believes Gasex is an effective tool. Regular release is good safety measures. Willing to talk about how and when the bypass would be used for emergency purposes. LADWP Dale Schmidt: LADWP has a need to get through the area and is interested in talking about the bypass road. Learning tonight about concerns and will be going back for solutions. EMS Mark Mikulicich: two fold issue: slope control and bypass. When slope loaded there is a potential problem. Clean up takes 6 hours or more. This length of time is unacceptable. Use of bypass is needed for emergency and to get people to a hospital. Lee Vining fire Protection District. Wants road open for emergency access. 35 years here and bypass road has not been closed due to slides. Open the bypass for local and EMS traffic. Eastern Sierra School District, Rob Barker: school buses will not be on the road. Kids that are in town will stay in town or get shuttled via road. Concerned about highway safety as well.

### ***Public comment.***

Jeff Hansen: locals and emergency vehicles need to use the road. Jeff has spent many hours moving snow. Complained about Caltrans not addressing problems when the opportunity was available. Who uses the bypass road? - many people. Wide loads. Local people need access. He is a local. Legal things can be accomplished. CHP and Sheriff were not communicating during the closures. Last year, local people needed to get through for jobs, they need the road open. Mail can't stop. County road shop staff work. Joe Boloma, SCE staff north of avalanche. Entire County could lose power if staff can't get to power stations. Tim Hansen - some of last year was exaggerated last year. Improvements could help. County should step up, widen, and add snow poles. County needs it for emergencies. Step up to plate. Went to work in town via Lee Vining Creek. Put culverts in road to completely bypass problem. Joanne Miller - post master in Lee Vining. All Post Office staff lives in Mono City. Not Lee Vining. No mail delivery when the road is closed. Katy Boloma. EMS in Bridgeport? Yes. Concerned about safety issues. No one should drive when avalanche danger.

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We need long term solutions to potential for road closure problem. It is difficult for people who need access both directions. We need to better understand the risk. Need to improve emergency road. Need long term access road but it is in the avalanche path. Should road be moved away from the run out zone. Should be part of the study process. Russ Piper Mono City. Last year was rough. Where was communications last year between town, etc.? Why was 395 closed so long? Chute dropped. No one would tell why the road wasn't cleared. Bypass road can be a problem. As soon as everyone found out big trucks came. Communication is a big problem.

Supervisor Reid. Everyone agrees things need to be done - short and long. Long term need a second access road. Use LTC. Start now. Short term. Gasex is not perfect but it is coming next year. This year we need to create a system. Communication, equipment, signage in place. Players at the table come together to create solutions to move forward. Something needs to be done. Pleased that school district won't send buses through bypass road. Involved in avalanche in Twin Lakes. 3 people died. These improvements can be done if people work together including community. Kids in school. Work out a deal for kids to stay with friends. Community needs to solve things the board can't solve. Something can be put together now.

In the past, Caltrans and Mono County have worked together to open bypass road. Last year it became a problem with heavy use. Snow plowing was done when snow was not controlled up in chutes and heavy avalanches occurred. Now Caltrans has better equipment to understand storms and effects of snow and control restraints. Will marshal resources and stage for snow removal, communicate with Sheriffs office for better decision making.

Supervisor Hazard. This is a kind of thing that gets done by people. It is doable and will be done. But now we are thinking about policy. A big discussion. Two issues. 395 closing. That's Caltrans and CHP responsible. After the assessment and closure occurs. Then it becomes a matter of communication with County - Sheriff and PW. Is it short or long term? We need to make a decision to open bypass if it is safe. Puts pressure on interagency to resolve. Time and risk factors not economic. Next issue is control. If 395 is closed and go to bypass who next? Local, 4x4? If campers and trucks come through they need to stop at a control point in Bridgeport and Mammoth. How and who makes decision? The local staff should be making a decision about what kind of vehicles access road based on conditions.

Long term will follow good basics from short term agreements. New bypass is a long term work product. Community should not be divided on new road. Supported by new community. Doesn't see any problem with use of road because snow will shallow. Need a gate - use a berm to protect. Supervisor Hunt. See the same as Reid and Hazard. Short and long term. Assist Caltrans to clear 395 is critical.

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Improve communications, use access road for emergencies. No big trucks and buses. Long term is Gasex and MOU with agencies to keep bypass open. See problems with new road due to environment and limited use of road. Supervisor Farnetti. Agrees with everything said. Priority to keep 395 open and keep people safe. If not possible keep bypass open especially for emergency access. Willing to dedicate county resources. Need more work from staff and agencies. Find solutions to these problems, staff, board and funds. Keep process going. Move quickly.

Supervisor Reid. Emergency vehicle access is important. But wants levels of access based on situation. Not sure. Local families. But not RV traffic. Need to turn people around. Caltrans communicating when road might be open. Developing a communication system.

Marshall - DWP and USFS need to agree to allow county to access property. Simple agreement. Hazard wants to hear positions from other agencies. Tom Hallenbeck wants 395 open ASAP after an avalanche occurs. This year crew size up and equipment in good shape. Renee CHP concerned about emergency, wants MOU on system. Wants Sheriff to take lead.

Kate Bolomo, want bypass when Caltrans shoots avalanche and the cleanup takes more than an hour. Open the bypass road to allow during this problem for emergency vehicles. Improve communications. DWP sees no road blocks. Improve the road. What does that mean? Need to control the road with a gate. Fast approval rate if we know exactly what we are planning to do. Jon USFS clearly public safety is a big part of the mission of USFS. Similar to DWP. Need scope, how, who, what good faith for public safety. Expedite review.

Board directed CAO to expedite process to obtain access to the bypass and improve communications between agencies.

### **Public Comment:**

Forest Groff, Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center:

\$5000 last year County provided seed money. This is an end of season report.  
Center received funds both public and private for start up  
First time since 1980s, a regular report for 7 months  
130 members contributed for center operations  
Coordinated with SAR. Search with Pine Creek, Bridgeport in Black smith canyon  
Very successful year. Had some money left over.  
Development of partnership with USFS and potential for position  
Expanding coordination with others including Caltrans  
Advisories are provided for all areas  
Working with Sheriff when communities should be evacuated  
Prevention  
Working with MMSA and June Lake ski patrol and forecaster  
Center is definite benefit of Eastern Sierra  
Come back on the agenda

## **ADJOURNMENT @ 8:40 p.m.**

Adjourn meeting and reconvene in regular session of **January 2, 2007**, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California.

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